

County Commissioners' Proceedings.

McCook, Nebraska, May 4th, 1909. The board of county commissioners met pursuant to adjournment. Present: S. Premer, C. B. Gray and F. S. Lofton, commissioners, Sidney Dodge, county attorney, and Chas. Skalla, county clerk.

A VALUABLE WEED.

The Teasel That is Used to Raise the Nap on Cloth. Our readers who never saw a teasel (spelled also teazel and teazle and even tassel) can imagine a fir cone or "swamp cattail," set all over with little stiff hooks. It is the bur or tassel or flower head or thistle top of the plant dipsacus, and so identified is it with cloth dressing that this use of it gave it its botanical name, Dipsacus fullonum, or fuller's teasel.

A LOST MINE.

The Tragic Legend That Is Associated With Bald Mountain. The legend of a lost mine has given to Bald mountain, in Placer county, Colo., a fascinating interest for prospectors. Tradition is that early in the fifties of the last century three men disappeared from an immigrant party going over the old Gap trail.

Pensive Butlers.

The fashion of building houses with the entrance doors practically on a level with the street gives the observing stroller on Fifth avenue some humorous glimpses of butlers on duty. In the house of one of the most fashionable families in town the butler can be seen standing behind the bronze grill and glass doors staring disconsolately out at the passing throng for most of the afternoon, while across the street from this house the same kind of an entranceway often discloses a glimpse of a functionary of the same class seated in a poetical attitude by a circular marble table, his head supported by his hand.

The Gordian Knot.

When one of Uncle Sam's sailor's, a man named Gordon, formerly serving on one of our vessels in a West Indian squadron, was taken to the Naval hospital in Washington he described with gressome vividness to his companions there his adventure with a shark off one of the islands in the West Indies.

A Composer's Compliment.

Wagner once said he would prefer to go to Vienna to hear the waltzes of Strauss to hearing Italian opera. On a birthday of Mme. Strauss some years ago she had as guests many celebrated musicians. She passed around a fan on which the different composers and players were writing their names and excerpts from compositions of their own.

An Opinion.

"Say, paw," said little Rollo, "why do they call George Washington the father of his country?" "I dunno, son, unless it was because his country kept him hustling to keep it out of trouble and then came to look at him as a sort of old fogey whose advice didn't amount to much anyhow."—Washington Star.

What He Wanted.

"Be careful, young man. You know the old saying, 'Marry in haste and repent at leisure.'" "That's why I'm rushing things. What I want is leisure."—Exchange.

When fortune fails us the supposed friends of our prosperous days vanish.—Plautus.

A REAL MONTE CRISTO

The Tragic Career of Picaud, a Cobbler of Paris.

HIS RISE TO GREAT WEALTH.

Thrown into Jail by Secret Enemies, He Was Left a Fortune by a Fellow Prisoner—Released. His Scheme of Vengeance Brought Him Death.

That romantic creation of the brain of Alexandre Dumas, "The Count of Monte Cristo," had a counterpart in real life in France in the last century. This is the tragic story:

In 1807, when Napoleon was at the height of his power, Francois Picaud was a sturdy young journeyman cobbler of Paris, full of health and animal spirits and happy in the love of Marguerite Vigoureux, a young girl of his own station in life. On the eve of his marriage hidden enemies denounced him to the imperial government as a spy. He was cast into prison, where he remained, forgotten by the world, for seven years.

Among his fellow prisoners was a wealthy Milanese priest, who treated him like a son and bequeathed to him 7,000,000 francs on deposit in the Bank of Amsterdam. Furthermore, this ecclesiastic told Picaud the secret of a hiding place in Italy where were concealed jewels to the value of 1,200,000 francs and specie amounting to three millions.

When the empire was overthrown in 1814 Picaud was one of a vast number of political prisoners throughout France who were given their freedom. He proceeded to gather the priest's treasure and to plan vengeance upon his enemies. Who they were he did not know.

Disguised as an Italian priest, he succeeded by bribing the least guilty of the conspirators and discovering the entire story of his undoing. The leader in the plot he learned was one Loupain, who had married Marguerite Vigoureux, prospered and become the proprietor of one of the handsomest cafes in Paris.

Picaud went to the capital and under a suitable disguise obtained work as a waiter in Loupain's establishment. Fellow servants there were Guilhem Solari and Gervais Chaubard, who, with Loupain, had denounced Picaud in 1807. The pretended waiter was not long in bringing his vengeance to a consummation. Chaubard was the first victim of his wrath. His body, pierced by a knife, was found on one of the bridges over the Seine. Loupain was disgraced, reduced to penury and finally stabbed to death in the Tuileries gardens. Solari was poisoned and died in frightful convulsions.

But speedy retribution overtook the implacable avenger. One night Picaud was seized, bound and borne to an abandoned quarry. In the darkness a terrible voice said:

"Picaud, what name are you passing under now? Are you still the priest Baldini or the waiter Prosper? You wished for revenge. You have sold yourself to the powers of hell. Ten years you have given to the pursuit of three wretches you should have spared me you dragged down to perdition. The diamond by which you bribed me was my destruction. I killed him who cheated me. I was arrested, condemned to the galleys and escaped only after years of torture. My one thought has been vengeance on the priest Baldini. You are in my power. Do you know me? I am Antoine Allut. How much will you pay for bread and water?"

"I have no money," groaned Picaud. "You have sixteen millions. These are my conditions: I will give you something to eat twice a day, but for each meal you must pay me 25,000 francs." However, the cupidity of the prisoner proved stronger than his hunger. He underwent terrible suffering without any signs of yielding until his captor, goaded to fury at the prolonged obstinacy, threw himself upon Picaud and stabbed him to death.—Bookman.

A Thackeray Story.

A correspondent of London Notes and Queries contributes this anecdote of Thackeray: Thackeray once desired to succeed Cardwell as M. P. for the city of Oxford and when returning from his canvass said: "What do you think, Cardwell! Not one of your constituents ever heard of me and my writings." He prefaced "constituents" with a strongish adjective.

A Straight Tip.

Johnnie (to new visitor)—So you are my grandma, are you? Grandmother—Yes, Johnnie. I'm your grandma on your father's side. Johnnie—Well, you're on the wrong side, you'll find out!—Philadelphia Bulletin

Horrible.

"That was an awful disaster. There was only one survivor. Isn't that terrible?" "Fearful. What a bore he'll be!"—Cleveland Leader.

Disenchanted.

"Do you believe in the superhuman?" "I used to, but I don't any more." "Why?" "I married him."—Chicago Record-Herald.

No man knows the weight of another man's garden.—Piffy

THE GREEN MORAY.

A Savage and Voracious Eel Found in Bermudian Waters.

The experienced sea fisherman takes care to kill every large conger eel as soon as it is brought into the boat. The conger has not only extraordinary jaw power—it can triturate shellfish, shells and all—but is also so abominably active that the fisherman's opinion of it coincides with that held of the Indian by the western plainsman, "No good conger except dead conger."

Ugly and savage brute as the conger is, it is a lamb compared with its relative, the green moray of Bermudian waters. This great eel is of an unnaturally brilliant green and has an eye which is the very epitome of intense and malignant ferocity. It is voracious and savage beyond words. The negro boatmen have such a holy horror of it that they absolutely refuse to allow a moray into the boat. An acquaintance of the writer, a marine officer, fishing in a small boat off Bermuda, hooked one of these fish, but as soon as his boatman saw the hideous head above the water he whipped out his knife and made to cut the line. The officer shouted to him to stop, but had to threaten to throw the man overboard before he would put up his knife. When the great eel was pulled over the side the negro went absolutely ashy with fright. As for the moray, no sooner was it in the boat than it doubled upon itself, and its jaws met with a clash in its own side, cutting out a chunk of white flesh as neatly as a scoop would cut cheese. That was enough for the officer. He picked up a boathook and forked the uncanny creature overboard.—Chambers' Journal.

A MANUFACTURED CLIMATE.

Methods of the Paris Market Gardeners in Forcing Nature.

The gardeners of Paris get their products on the market weeks before the regular season for them. This forcing of nature is described by Ernest Poole in Success Magazine. The secret is simply this: The French marichers have manufactured a climate to suit them. As one observer has said, "They have moved the climate of Monte Carlo up to the suburbs of Paris."

Some new prodigy of modern science, this? Not at all. Only enormous expense in money and in time. The gardens, whenever possible, are placed on land with a slope to the south and are well protected by walls on the north and east, walls built to reflect light as well as to give protection from the northeast winds.

The ground is practically covered with glass frames in the open, "three light" frames of uniform size, 12 by 4 1/2 feet, and also by glass bells. These, too, are of a uniform size, about the shape of a chapel bell, a little less than seventeen inches in diameter and from fourteen to fifteen inches high. The French call them cloches. You may often see over a thousand frames and over 10,000 glass bells in one two-acre plot in the suburbs of Paris.

A more recent innovation is the employment of hot water pipes run under the soil, making of the earth a veritable steam heated hotel, with this essential difference, that the hotel keeper here is desperately eager, not to keep his guests, but to persuade them to leave on the earliest possible day.

A Memorable Wreck.

The most memorable wreck in the history of the American surf was that of the bark Mexico, stranded on Hempstead beach, Long Island, early in the morning of Jan. 3, 1837. She carried 104 passengers and a crew of twelve men. Four passengers and four of the crew were saved by a surfboat from the beach under the command of Raynor Rock Smith. All others were frozen to death, though the wreck was so close to the shore that their cries and even some of their words were plainly heard on the beach. It was the story of this wreck, as published throughout the nation, that led to the establishment of the United States life saving service.—Scrap Book.

The Bayonet.

The bayonet was due to the fortunate inspiration of a Basque soldier, who, when he and his regiment, having expended their ammunition, were driven to bay on a mountain ridge near Bayonne, suggested that they should fix the long knives with which they were armed into the musket barrels and charge the enemy. This advice, which was followed with complete success, was the means of introducing the weapon to the notice of military Europe.

What He Lacked.

It is related of a South American general, who was extremely well pleased with himself, that once when about to sallify forth to a grand dance he surveyed himself contentedly in the mirror and then soliloquized thus: "Ah! Thou hast all—bravery, wealth, position, good looks. Ah, what dost thou lack?" Whereupon his orderly, who, unknown to the general, was close at hand, remarked: "Sense, general, sense!"

The Difference.

Little Lester Livermore—Papa, what is the difference between a vision and a sight? This book says—Mr. Livermore—The difference between a girl before and a girl after she is married.—Puck.

Very Plain.

Restaurant Patron—That isn't a very good looking piece of meat. Waiter—Well, you ordered a plain steak.—Exchange.

OVER \$4,000 IN PRIZES To be given away by the LINCOLN DAILY STAR in its Second Annual Contest, comprising: A \$1500. TOURING CAR fully equipped. A TOUR OF EUROPE for two, leaving Lincoln or Omaha and returning to the same points. All travelling and incidental expenses paid. TWO HIGH GRADE PIANOS. Trip for two to the ALASKAN-YUKON EXPOSITION. All expenses paid, including admission to grounds and all amusements. Ten other trips and other prizes.

Is it solid gold? Is it all wool? In buying clothes you should ask the second question just as readily as you ask the first in buying jewelry. CLOTHCRAFT CLOTHES are sold with an all-wool guarantee. They are the only clothes at \$10.00 to \$25.00 in America, made of absolutely pure wool fabrics throughout. CLOTHES made of pure, all wool fabrics hold their shape best and wear longest. In CLOTHCRAFT CLOTHES, for men and young men, the high standard of the all-wool fabric is maintained in every other feature of the garments—in style, fit, linings and workmanship. C. L. DeGroff & Co.

Another Good LAND OFFERING On May 22nd, the Government will open its second tract of 12,000 acres of perfectly irrigated land in the Big Horn Basin, near Garland and Powell, Wyoming. This irrigation project of the Government is first-class and reliable. This land is adjacent to and along side of the Burlington Road. Powell and Garland are prosperous towns. The community is absolutely first-class, and there is not a better place to live in the whole west for climate, sunshine, productiveness of soil and many other good reasons, than the Big Horn Basin. This land is \$45.00 and acre in ten annual installments, without interest. 320 ACRE MONDELL ACT:—Select locations for homesteading in Wyoming, near Newcastle, Upton and Moorcroft. Plats on file. Write me. I conduct an excursion on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Only \$27.50 round trip homeseekers' excursion rate. No charge for my services. Write me at once about this new tract. This excursion of May 18 or in June will be in time for good selections. Burlington Route D. CLEM DEEVER, GENERAL AGENT, Land Seekers Information Bureau, Omaha, Nebraska.

ONE ONE ONE That is the No. of ONE of the best Lumber and Coal Concerns in a No. ONE town, which is located on ONE East Street. But if you can't find it, call phone No. ONE, when you will be informed that you can get No. ONE lumber, No. ONE coal, No. ONE service, No. ONE treatment, in fact No. ONE first, last and all the time. Bullard Lumber Co.

On motion the county treasurer was instructed to strike from the 1897 tax list the taxes on lot 22, block 2, Willow Grove Addition to McCook, of 25 cents, as said lot at that time was property of the East McCook Sunday School Association and exempt from taxation. On motion the county treasurer was instructed to strike from the 1898 tax list the sum of 30 cents being the taxes on the south half of block No. 13, Indianola city, which at that time was county property and exempt from taxation. On motion the county treasurer was instructed to transfer from the district fund of School District No. 42 the sum of \$57.16 and place the same to the credit of District No. 06, the same being the taxes on the SW of 24-2-25, for the years 1900, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07 and 08, which were paid to District No. 42 when they should have been paid to District No. 06. The appointment of N. J. Campbell as deputy assessor, made by county assessor T. A. Endsley, was on motion approved. On motion the county treasurer was instructed to refund to Frank Warner the sum of \$2.50, being the amount of poll tax assessed against him in 1897, and paid by him under protest, for the reason that he was not of age. On motion the county treasurer was instructed to refund to W. E. Duling the sum of \$9.34, being the amount illegally assessed against him in 1898 and paid by him under protest, for the reason that an error of \$91.00 was made by the deputy assessor on the assessment book, by putting 55 acres of level land on the NW of 11-2-26 at \$2,500.00 when he intended to assess same at \$20.00 per acre, which is \$1,900.00. The claim for tax refund of D. P. Treadway on 1908 taxes on the NW of 10-1-28 was on motion rejected. The claim for tax refund of J. E. Hathorn on 1908 taxes on the SE of 19-2-26 was on motion rejected. The claim for tax refund of Mrs. J. V. Pickering for 1908 taxes on the west half of 12-1-29 was on motion rejected. The claim for tax refund of \$11.10 of the I. O. O. F. of Lebanon, was on motion rejected. On motion the board adjourned to meet June 7, 1909. S. PREMER, Chairman. Attest: CHARLES SKALLA, County Clerk.

NOTICE!

No more hunting, fishing, picnicking or boat riding on the old Loomis place. Parties doing so will be taken for trespassers and treated as such. THIS MEANS YOU.—4-4-2m. S. L. WRAY.

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT.

McCook, Nebraska, April 30th, 1909. Notice is hereby given that Albert McMillen has filed in the city clerk's office his bond and petition for a druggist's permit to sell small, spirituous and vinous liquors in the building on lot 11, block 22, in the First ward of the City of McCook, for the municipal year ending April 30th, 1910. ALBERT McMILLEN, Applicant.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE McCook National Bank

Table with columns for Assets and Liabilities. Assets include Loans and Discounts (\$136,649.14), Overdrafts, secured and unsecured (\$64.19), U. S. Bonds to secure circulation (\$40,000.00), Premiums on U. S. Bonds (\$1,634.27), Bonds, securities, etc. (\$8,929.71), Banking house, furniture and fixtures (\$3,185.95), Due from National Banks (not reserve agents) (\$5,355.33), Due from State and Private Banks and Bankers, Trust Companies, and Savings Banks (\$1,702.45), Due from approved reserve agents (\$30,629.83), Checks and other cash items (\$48,723.30), Notes of other National Banks (\$30.00), Fractional paper currency, nickels and cents (\$43.01), LAWFUL MONEY RESERVE IN BANK, VIZ: Specie (\$12,225.65), Legal tender notes (\$1,185.00), Redemption fund with U.S. Treasurer (5 per cent of circulation) (\$2,000.00). Total Assets: \$261,694.46.

Table with columns for Liabilities. Liabilities include Capital stock paid in (\$50,000.00), Surplus fund (\$4,000.00), Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid (\$2,207.83), National Bank notes outstanding (\$40,000.00), Due to State and Private Banks and Bankers (\$1,682.94), Individual deposits subject to check (\$7,893.56), Demand certificates of deposit (\$1,098.10), Time certificates of deposit (\$75,604.05), Certified checks (\$300.00), Cashier's checks outstanding (\$2,744.08). Total Liabilities: \$261,694.46.

State of Nebraska, County of Red Willow, ss. I, C. J. O'Brien, cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. C. J. O'BRIEN, Cashier. Correct—Attest: P. W. LEHR, Director, C. F. LEHR, Director, P. F. McKENNA, Director.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of May, 1909. CHAS. W. KELLEY, Notary Public. My commission expires March 30, 1913.

Get Into Business for Yourself A BUCK CEMENT BLOCK MACHINE will make you money. The BUCK is the only two-piece, self-binding, self-locking, water-proof, frost-proof, sanitary, dry-air block made. Takes less material and is made quicker than any other block. Write today and let us tell you all about it, and how you can make from \$15.00 to \$50.00 every day that you work. Exclusive right in each county. Get in first. Interlock Block Machine Co. City Office: 24th and Paul Sts. OMAHA, NEB.